



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSLIM RELIGIOSITY-PERSONALITY
INVENTORY FOR MEASURING THE RELIGIOSITY OF MALAYSIAN
MUSLIM YOUTH**

STEVEN ERIC KRAUSS.

PEKA 2005 1

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to youth everywhere.

If humanity could only understand the intimate connection that we all share; that separation does not exist in Reality. Then, we would embrace each other and ourselves, and turn in earnest love to the One from which we all came.

- Anonymous

I would first like to express my deepest gratitude and love to my family back home – Liz, Dave, Andrew and Rachel, whose support and concern have been endless despite my being halfway around the world in pursuit of this degree and distinction, and to my family here in Malaysia who have helped and supported me in so many ways.

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To my daughter, Maryam, the jewel of my heart, I pray that this thesis in some small way contributes to a better *ummah* and world for you to grow up in, and that it someday encourages you to walk the path of service with sincerity in whatever way that Allah wills for you.

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of the University Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSLIM RELIGIOSITY-PERSONALITY INVENTORY FOR
MEASURING THE RELIGIOSITY OF MALAYSIAN MUSLIM YOUTH**

By

STEVEN ERIC KRAUSS

September 2005

Chairman: Professor Hj. Azimi Hj. Hamzah, EdD

Institute: Community and Peace Studies

Religiosity from the Islamic perspective has not been thoroughly represented or investigated. The lack of an appropriate conceptualization and measurement instrument reflective of the unique Islamic *tawhidic* worldview has hindered efforts to capture key elements of religious understanding and practice among young Muslims in Malaysia. In response to this need, this study set out to 1) develop a comprehensive model of religiosity from the Islamic perspective; 2) develop an appropriate measurement instrument based on the religiosity model; and 3) use the religiosity instrument to establish religiosity norms (normed scores) and benchmarks for key demographic sub-groups of Malaysian Muslim youth. To achieve the objectives, the study incorporated a basic exploratory-descriptive research design.

To address the above problem and objectives, the author conducted a major review of the Islamic and non-Islamic literatures on religiosity to develop the Islamic religiosity model. From the religiosity model and its operational definitions, the religiosity instrument – the Muslim Religiosity-Personality Inventory (MRPI) - was developed and pilot tested to ensure reliability and validity. The MRPI was then field

tested among 1,692 youth from across Malaysia. From the field test data, raw scores were obtained and normed using a standardized (z-score) method. The normed scores were then compared across five demographic variables (i.e. cluster group, age group, sex, level of educational attainment and place of residence) using descriptives, T-test and ANOVA. The normed scores were then compiled to establish religiosity benchmarks for Malaysian Muslim youth as a relative standard of comparison for future MRPI respondents.

The study findings indicated that a model and instrument for measuring religiosity from the Islamic perspective is attainable. The MRPI is based on a multi-dimensional and comprehensive religiosity concept reflective of key dimensions of the Islamic *tawhidic* worldview. The field test findings indicated that there are significant differences in youth religiosity normed scores across the six sub-populations of youth sampled (i.e. IPTA students, youth organization members, Serenti drug rehabilitation inmates, political party members, youth 'at-large' and young factory workers), as well as across most of the other five demographic variables.

Overall, the study concluded that there are considerable differences in religiosity among different groupings of Muslim youth in Malaysia, which potentially reflects differences in key competencies integral for positively contributing to nation building. The study also points to several important areas for future religiosity research among youth in Malaysia using the MRPI and resulting religiosity benchmarks.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PEMBENTUKAN UKURAN BAGI PENORMALAN RELIGIOSITI BELIA MUSLIM MALAYSIA

Oleh

STEVEN ERIC KRAUSS

September 2005

Pengerusi: Professor Hj. Azimi Hj. Hamzah, EdD

Institut: Pengajian Komuniti dan Keamanan

Religiositi dari perspektif Islam masih tidak diwakili atau diselidik secara menyeluruh. Kekurangan konsepsualisasi yang sesuai dan alat pengukuran yang reflektif terhadap keunikan pandangan terhadap kehidupan dari tauhidi Islam telah menghalang keupayaan untuk mendalami pemahaman agama masa kini dan amalan di kalangan belia Islam di Malaysia. Sebagai tindakan dari keperluan ini, kajian telah dilakukan untuk 1) membentuk satu model religiositi komprehensif dari perspektif Islam 2) membentuk satu alat pengukuran yang bersesuaian berdasarkan model religiositi 3) menggunakan alat religiositi untuk membina norma religiositi (skor yang telah dinormkan) dan tanda aras bagi kekunci demografi sub-kumpulan belia Muslim Malaysia. Bagi mencapai objektif tersebut, satu rekabentuk kajian deskriptif eksploratori telah digunakan.

Untuk menangani permasalahan dan objektif di atas, penulis telah melakukan satu pemeriksaan terhadap bahan literatur Islam dan bukan-Islam mengenai religiositi bagi membentuk model religiositi Islam. Dari model religiositi dan definisi penggunaannya, alat religiositi 'Muslim Personality Inventory (MRPI)' telah

dibentuk dan diuji melalui ujian pilot untuk memastikan tahap kesahihan (reliability) dan ketepatannya (validity). Alat MRPI tersebut kemudiannya telah diuji di lapangan di kalangan 1,692 belia Muslim dari pelbagai lapisan masyarakat Malaysia. Skor kasar telah diperolehi dan skor ini telah dinormalkan menggunakan kaedah piawaian (skor-Z). Skor yang telah dinormalkan kemudiannya telah dibandingkan di antara lima variabel demografi (kumpulan kluster, kumpulan umur, jantina, tahap pencapaian akademik dan tempat tinggal) dengan menggunakan analisis deskriptif, ujian-T dan ANOVA. Skor yang dinormalkan telah dikompilasikan untuk menubuhkan tanda aras religiositi belia Malaysia untuk digunakan sebagai piawaian relatif terhadap responden MRPI pada masa hadapan.

Penemuan kajian menunjukkan yang model dan alat pengukuran religiositi dari perspektif Islam boleh diwujudkan. Alat MRPI adalah berdasarkan dimensi yang pelbagai dan berdasarkan konsep religiositi komprehensif yang reflektif terhadap kekunci dimensi pandangan terhadap dunia dari segi tauhid Islam. Penemuan dari ujian di lapangan pula menunjukkan yang terdapat perbezaan yang berkeertian dalam skor norma religiositi belia dari enam sub-populasi belia yang disampel (cth. pelajar IPTA, ahli organisasi belia, pelatih pusat Serenti. Ahli parti politik, belia umum dan pekerja kilang) dan juga dari kebanyakan dari lima variabel demografi.

Secara keseluruhannya, kajian menyimpulkan bahawa terdapat perbezaan yang nyata di dalam skor religiositi yang telah dinormalkan di antara kumpulan belia Muslim yang berbeza, yang mungkin menggambarkan perbezaan di dalam potensi sumbangan terhadap pembangunan bangsa. Alat MRPI dan tanda aras yang telah dibentuk di dalam kajian ini juga dapat digunakan di dalam mengkaji beberapa

bidang penting yang perlu diberi perhatian dalam kajian religiositi di kalangan belia di Malaysia.

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On one final note, in June of 2002, the Institute for Community and Peace Studies (PEKKA) launched a major IRPA (Intensification of Research Priority Areas) research initiative with the goal of developing a measurement instrument for religiosity from the Islamic perspective. One of the organizational goals of the IRPA grant was to produce one Master's thesis and one Ph.D. dissertation from the research, of which the present study represents the latter. It should therefore be noted that although the author was the principal investigator for the religiosity conceptualization and instrument development phases of the present Ph.D. study, the processes were conducted in collaboration with the IRPA Research Team as part of the IRPA project. The specific points of collaboration are noted in the study methodology in Chapter 3 as inputs provided by the "Research Team".

I certify that an Examination Committee met on 22th September 2005 to conduct the final examination of Steven Eric Krauss on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled "Development of the Muslim Religiosity-Personality Inventory for Measuring the Religiosity of Malaysian Muslim Youth" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

Turiman Suandi, PhD

Professor
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Ezhar Tamam, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Modern Language and Communication
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Amini Amir Abdullah, PhD

Lecturer
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Abdul Rahman Embong, PhD

Professor
Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
(External Examiner)



ZAKARIAH ABD. RASHID, Ph.D.

Professor/Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: **25 OCT 2005**

This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee are as follows:

Hj. Azimi Hj. Hamzah, EdD

Professor

Institute for Community and Peace Studies

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Chairman)

Rumaya Juhari, PhD

Associate Professor

Faculty of Human Ecology

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Member)

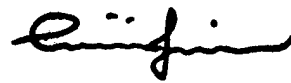
Jamaliah Abd. Hamid, PhD

Lecturer

Faculty of Educational Studies

University Putra Malaysia

(Member)



AINI IDERIS, PhD

Professor/Dean

School of Graduate Studies

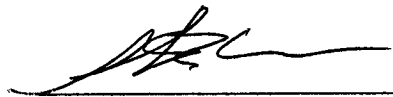
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

17 NOV 2005

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



STEVEN ERIC KRAUSS

Date: 26 September 2005

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